

## **Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting Summary**

October 23, 2014, 1:00 to 3:00 PM

MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

All presentations are posted on the MassDEP website at  
[www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/solid-waste-advisory-committee.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/solid-waste-advisory-committee.html).

### **MassDEP Updates**

John Fischer provided the following update:

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will be finalizing third party inspection forms for operation and maintenance inspections under 310 CMR 19.018 shortly. Once finalized, these forms will be posted to the MassDEP web site.

### **Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant Awards, Brooke Nash, MassDEP**

Brooke Nash presented an update on grant awards recently announced through MassDEP's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. The press release announcing the grant awards is available on the [MassDEP web site](#) and a list of the grant awards is available [here](#).

### **Questions and Discussion**

Q: What is the typical reduction in trash with Pay As You Throw(PAYT) programs?

A: Municipalities with PAYT typically average between 1,800 and 1,100 pounds of trash/household/year, while municipalities without PAYT typically have per household trash rates of 2,300 pounds/household/year and above

Q: Are any of the grants going towards recycling education?

A: Yes, many of the small scale grant funds are used for recycling outreach and education activities. And, the waste reduction project grant to the City of Lynn is focused on recycling and waste reduction education.

### **Commercial Organics Waste Disposal Ban Rollout, John Fischer, MassDEP**

John Fischer of MassDEP provided an update on implementation of the commercial organics waste disposal ban. The ban took effect on October 1, 2014. MassDEP has created a web page that includes the key information relative to the ban, related programs, and RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts resources, which is available [here](#). MassDEP is continuing to focus its efforts on outreach, education, and technical assistance, including connecting businesses with RecyclingWorks resources and assistance. As part of the rollout of the ban, MassDEP conducted a number of events highlighting successful programs. A presentation with photo highlights from this tour is posted along with these meeting notes.

Comment: A key to making these programs work is to reduce contamination, particularly from plastics. Increased use of biodegradable bags, along with perhaps increased hauler training on best management practices may be helpful with this.

Q: Does MassDEP expect smaller businesses to start separating food waste and do we expect this will become more cost effective over time?

A: We have already seen a number of small businesses establish food waste collection programs. We do expect this to continue to grow in the future as food waste collection routes continue to be more extensive and increased route density makes these collection routes more cost-effective for smaller food waste generators.

Q: Does MassDEP plan to update the Draper Lennon study on commercial food waste generation in Massachusetts?

A: MassDEP does not have plans to update this full study at this time. However, on the RecyclingWorks web site, we have posted food waste generation factors for a number of business sectors that go beyond the factors in the Draper-Lennon report to provide several ways to estimate food waste generation. As new information becomes available, we will update and modify these factors as appropriate.

### **RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts Food Waste Assistance Update, Lorenzo Macaluso**

Lorenzo Macaluso of RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts provided an update on RecyclingWorks services, specifically those focused on helping businesses and institutions comply with the commercial organics waste disposal ban.

Q: Of the approximately 300 hotline calls received in the first quarter of FY 2015, what percent of those were focused on food waste?

A: About 50 percent of these hotline calls were regarding food waste. The remainder was focused on other recycling, reuse, and waste reduction issues. The percentage of calls related to food waste management has increased slightly compared with last year.

Q: What types of questions do haulers call with?

A: There is a variety of types of questions. Some of the common questions relate to reuse opportunities or recycling unusual materials from large customers, using food waste estimation guidelines, and adding or modifying listings in the RecyclingWorks service providers database.

Q: How is the RecyclingWorks service provider database different than the list of facilities receiving food materials on the MassDEP website?

A: We are continually working to ensure that facilities in Massachusetts that receive food materials are listed both on the RecyclingWorks database and MassDEP facility lists. The Recycling Works database is broader in two ways:

1. The RecyclingWorks database includes food waste haulers, which are not listed on the MassDEP list.
2. The RecyclingWorks database includes facilities that receive food materials that are located outside of Massachusetts.

Q: Does RecyclingWorks have data about how much food material goes to animal feed, compost, or anaerobic digestion?

A: No, though there is anecdotal information from individual businesses that have received assistance. MassDEP will be evaluating this information in the future based on reports from compost and anaerobic digestion facilities.

Comment: RecyclingWorks may want to consider developing training for haulers on food waste collection best management practices, as this information could be useful for some haulers.

### **Soils Management Meetings Update, Sarah Weinstein, MassDEP**

Sarah Weinstein provided an update on meetings that MassDEP has been holding to address Section 77 of the FY2015 Massachusetts State Budget. The section is focused on establishing clearer standards and requirements for managing soil from development projects, specifically in quarries, sand pits, and gravel pits. MassDEP is also focused on other “reclamation” locations that could use surplus soil in support of development. Section 277 reads:

*“Not later than June 30, 2015, the department of environmental protection shall establish regulations, guidelines, standards or procedures for determining the suitability of soil used as fill material for the reclamation of quarries, sand pits and gravel pits. The regulations, standards or procedures shall ensure the reuse of soil poses no significant risk of harm to health, safety, public welfare or the environment considering the transport, filling operations and the foreseeable future use of the filled land. The department may adopt, amend or repeal regulations establishing: (i) classes or categories of fill or reclamation activities requiring prior issuance of a permit issued by the department; (ii) classes or categories of fill or reclamation activities that may be carried out without prior issuance of a permit issued by the department; and (iii) classes or categories of fill that shall require local approval based on the size, scope and location of a project; provided, however, that local approval shall not be required for projects involving less than 100,000 cubic yards of soil.”*

MassDEP held a Stakeholder Listening Session on October 17, 2014 and has scheduled additional meetings as follows:

- Tuesday, October 28, MassDEP Boston office, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, topic: soil sampling and analysis
- Friday, November 7, 2014, MassDEP Boston office, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, topic: local approvals and permits
- Wednesday, November 12, 2014, MassDEP Boston office, 9:30 AM -12:00 PM, topic: TBD, this meeting will be held if needed.

Following these meetings, MassDEP will prepare a conceptual proposal for addressing the requirements of Section 277 listed above and to serve as a basis for developing more specific regulation and/or policy revisions. MassDEP has set up a website specifically for this work at [www.reclamationsoil.org](http://www.reclamationsoil.org) that provides more information on these meetings and additional background. Visit the [www.ReclamationSoil.org](http://www.ReclamationSoil.org) blog and read about existing programs that are addressing similar issues related to soil reuse. We ask for your help in identifying additional material that will help us all fit the pieces together into a protective & workable process to

characterize Reclamation Soil Please use the comment box at the bottom of the “*What’s Happening Elsewhere?*” page (<http://reclamationsoil.wordpress.com/other-states/>) to make your suggestions or email them to [Paul.Locke@state.ma.us](mailto:Paul.Locke@state.ma.us).

### **Next Meeting**

The next SWAC meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2015 from 1:00-3:00 pm at MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston.